

AETC News Clips



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4 Oct 01

Express-News: America in Agony

Guard trains for airport role

By Sig Christenson

Express-News Military Writer

Web Posted : 10/04/2001 12:00 AM

Around 100 soldiers from Texas Army National Guard units around the state studied airport security Wednesday at Camp Bullis so that Americans soon will fly in a safer sky.

But their commander cautioned there are no guarantees.

"I can't give 100 percent certainty. No one could possibly do that," said Maj. Gen. Daniel James III, the Texas Guard's adjutant general. "By virtue of the fact that our soldiers are there acting to augment law enforcement, it will hopefully decrease the number of soft spots in the current security operation."

Strengthening the nation's airport security systems is the main idea behind President Bush's call-up of more than 4,000 National Guardsmen to serve at 420 commercial airports.

Starting Friday, some of the about 400 Texas Guardsmen are scheduled to appear at the state's major airports, including San Antonio International, said Col. Bill Goodwin, the state guard's chief of staff.

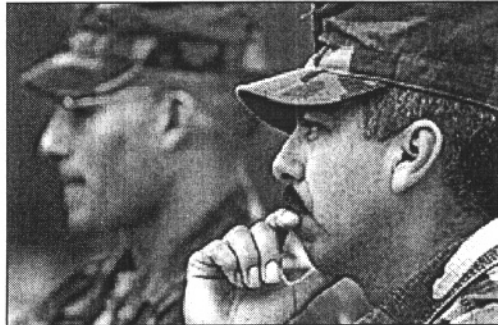
All 27 Texas airports should be staffed by early next week, he said.

The 100 training at Bullis will be stationed in cities such as San Antonio, Victoria, Corpus Christi, Brownsville and McAllen.



Staff Sgt. Javier Rosales of Mercedes stands at ease Wednesday with the 49th Armored Division of the Texas Army National Guard. The troops were at Camp Bullis to go through Federal Aviation Administration training for working at area airports.

Photos by Bob Owen/Express-News



Staff Sgt. Alfredo Medina of Laredo (right) and Staff Sgt. George Taylor of San Antonio listen during airport security training.

Express News
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Fewer people are flying since the Sept. 11 suicide plane attacks, prompting many airlines to reduce flights and lay off tens of thousands of workers.

Bringing in the Guard is viewed as a way to bolster confidence in the safety of the system.

Like his fellow soldiers, Spc. Timothy Halcomb is confident that the Guard's presence will deter would-be terrorists.

He stressed to travelers that "absolutely everything humanly possible will be done to ensure your safety."

Armida Nunez, 45, of Corpus Christi echoed those comments, adding: "That's our job."

The Guard and Federal Aviation Administration are working together on the training.

Classes began Wednesday at Bullis and end today, with an FAA instructor spending 12 hours a day with the veteran soldiers.

The classes in an old theater on Camp Bullis have been shrouded in secrecy. The FAA instructor refused to let a San Antonio Express-News reporter and photographer join the class, and the soldiers wouldn't say much about their studies.

Asked what they had been taught, 1st Sgt. Jeff Meurer, 43, of San Angelo replied: "General instruction and FAA rules." When pressed for details, he said, "FAA rules, regulations."

Capt. Ben McMahon, 36, of San Angelo wouldn't say much more.

"Just the basic FAA regulations," he said. "There's nothing else to it."

The troops won't be limited to serving at security checkpoints and "looking tough," James said.

If a "compelling need" arises, they would respond or work elsewhere.

Citizen soldiers serving at airports as part of a larger homeland defense strategy, he added, "is a very relevant role for the National Guard," even if it's different than what was envisioned in past years.

Ivan Eland, director of defense policy studies at the libertarian-oriented Cato Institute, fears the Guard's work in airports could take the country close to an unconstitutional use of the military.

Bush's \$150 million effort to put the Guard in airports is seen as a stopgap measure to help draw more people back on planes until the new homeland security office is established.

<http://news.mysanantonio.com/story.cfm?xla=saen&xlb=987&xlc=349367&xld=987>

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Guardsmen interviewed Wednesday said it should work.

"I think that as a passenger if I saw that the governor and the president is willing to put a soldier there to watch out for my safety, I would feel pretty good," said Staff Sgt. George Taylor, 42, of San Antonio.

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10/04/2001

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Since the Sept. 11 attacks, Bill Welch has been spending less time at Colliers Oxford Commercial Inc. in Austin and more time as a lieutenant colonel at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio.

Dealing with work, war

Employers prepare for exit of reservists amid U.S. military buildup

Mary Alice Kaspar Austin Business Journal Staff

Bill Welch sent a memo to his company Sept. 13, saying he appreciated his colleagues' support of the role he'll play in the U.S. response to terrorism, known as Operation Enduring Freedom.

In his regular workday life, Welch is president and managing partner of commercial real estate firm Colliers Oxford Commercial Inc. in Austin.

When he's not wearing his Colliers hat, Welch dons a military uniform and is called by his military title, "Lieutenant Colonel." During this crisis, Lt. Col. Welch is poised to fill in as director of security forces at the Air Education and Training Command at San Antonio's Randolph Air Force Base.

All across Central Austin, hundreds of people like Welch are gearing up to leave the world of work for the world of war. In some cases, the departures will leave holes in business operations.

The Pentagon has called 14,000 of National Guardsmen and reservists to active duty, many of whom specialize in communications, intelligence, security, mortuary affairs and military police support. The Pentagon is authorized to call up as many as 50,000 National Guardsmen and reservists.

Reservists "have given their time at the expense of family, employers, and personal self-interest to prepare for the day when we would be called to serve our defense," Welch's memo states.

"They will willingly step up and do the job they were trained to do. Some are supply clerks, cooks and bus drivers. Others will fly aircraft, carry guns and engage in combat. And still others will serve, like me, in the relative safety of headquarters writing plans and ensuring troops are properly trained and supplied. But all share equally the commitment to serve to the best of our ability."

Like Welch, Doug Smith also has received the call to serve.

Smith is project manager for Austin software company InfoGlide Corp. and a commander in the Naval Reserves. Smith has previous experience as a nuclear submarine officer. He isn't sure what his new assignment will be.

Whenever Welch and Smith are finished with their military assignments, their regular jobs will be waiting for them, thanks to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994.

That act states "any individual may be absent from work for military duty and retain re-employment rights for five years." A number of other measures meant to help reservists are outlined in the act, which can be found at the U.S. Labor Department's Web site, (<http://www.dol.gov>).

Although employers such as InfoGlide, Dell Computer Corp. and the Austin Police Department all say they're fully behind the 1994 law, they also acknowledge the voids they're forced to fill.

Investment banker Ladd Pattillo, president of Austin-based D. Ladd Pattillo and Associates Inc., recently retired from the Army Reserves after 33 years. He says small companies or ones that lose key executives can be "devastated by a callup."

Welch, who has been in the reserves for 20 years, says part of his business strategy has been to team up with people he knows he can count on when military obligations pull him in a different direction.

But at InfoGlide, President and CEO Mark Shultz says the company definitely will feel Smith's departure.

"In this particular case, we have a significant management challenge. The software that our company makes is in extreme demand right now and is used for fraud detection and alias identification. Every government organization's all over us for product, and we're trying to get it to them," Shultz says.

"I have demand that is greater than I have ever seen, and my key business guy is going to pack his sea bags and go on a trip. Beyond that, there is the personal part of having him gone."

Paul Flanigan, a spokesman for the Austin Police Department, says the department employs 20 to 25 reservists. He says the department will manage by having nonpatrol officers fill in so all shifts remain covered.

APD also offers reservists the option of receiving pay for any vacation or sick leave they might have accrued. In some cases, a person's military pay is less than what he or she makes as a civilian employee.

"Some employers do choose to help their active reservists financially," says Army veteran Oliver Bell, president of Round Rock-based E-Team Communications Inc., a human resources and labor relations consulting firm. "Some employers pay the difference between what the reservists make while on active duty and their average paychecks when working full time."

Other employers, such as Austin's American Constructors Inc., examine the situation on a case-by-case basis.

Bill Heine, president of American Constructors, served 33 years as both an active-duty and reserve member of the Navy. Heine is aware of at least three of his employees who could be called for active duty.

Although companies might be strained by the military buildup, employers acknowledge having employees called to active duty can help unify a company.

Companies "know they are participating in the effort of creating security and defense for the nation," Welch says. "There's a certain element of pride associated with it. Workers' sense of pride is to rally around the cause at these times."

Pattillo also thinks times like these help co-workers understand why all reservists must take off two weeks from work every year for training.

In good times, people refer to reservists as "weekend warriors," he says. But in times of crisis, they're referred to as "twice the citizen."

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Express-News: America in Agony

Governor urged to act

By **Peggy Fikac**

Chief, Express-News Austin Bureau

Web Posted : 10/04/2001 12:00 AM

AUSTIN — Putting pressure on Gov. Rick Perry to call lawmakers back to the Texas Capitol, Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander outlined a "war relief package" Wednesday that includes key items only the Legislature can address.

"It's going to take legislative action," Rylander said of her plan to address Texas effects of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, including the impact on families of those called to military duty. "The sooner the better."

She noted, however, that it's Perry's call.

Perry has no plans to call lawmakers back to Austin before they next meet in regular session in January 2003, according to his spokeswoman, Kathy Walt.

The comptroller's package also contains items that can go forward without changes in law.

They include raising money from corporations and others to provide scholarships or matching fund accounts in the Texas Tomorrow Fund college tuition program for children with a parent who is killed, injured or disabled during a war.

Donations already have been received.

Rylander also proposed tax, health and bond measures that would require legislative action.

Democratic Rep. Roberto Gutierrez of McAllen said a special session is needed to strengthen civil defense systems in Texas.

He proposed adding a \$5 fee to vehicle registration to fund grants to Texas hospitals so the state is prepared to treat victims of chemical or biological attacks.

The legislative package being fleshed out by Rylander would include the

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~~death~~ penalty for terrorists and the sale of Texas war bonds to finance roads, bridges and causeways.

Regarding infrastructure, she said, "We've got critical needs right now, and they'll be even more so."

Her package would allow sales tax exemptions for families of military service members, as well as for equipment purchased by public safety and fire officials.

Among other initiatives, it would permit state government employees and their dependents to continue to receive state health care benefits if called to active duty by the president.

Rylander said she's doing what she can to help in the effort to fight terrorists.

"I'd love to be on the frontlines fighting. That's not the case at my age and stage. But I can take care of the kids and families here," she said.

While the world situation requires Texas action, it is not expected to hurt the Texas economy, Rylander added.

"It is highly unlikely we will have a recession in Texas. A slowdown yes, but nothing we weren't already aware of and nothing that we can't withstand," Rylander said.

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Express-News: America in Agony

Cohen warns of threats

By-Sonja Garza and Emanuel Gonzales

Web Posted : 10/03/2001 12:00 AM

Former Defense Secretary William Cohen says American cities need to be prepared for the possibility of a biological or chemical attack at the hands of terrorists.

"There is no doubt in my mind that terrorists will kill in any fashion that they can and as many as they can," Cohen said Wednesday at a convention of security professionals gathered in San Antonio.

Addressing topics ranging from homeland defense to international security, he answered questions posed by reporters and audience members at the American Society for Industrial Security's International 47th annual Seminar & Exhibit.

More than 15,000 security professionals are attending the four-day event, which began Monday at the Convention Center.

Cohen also is scheduled to speak today at Trinity University's 2001-02 Policy Maker Breakfast Series at 7:30 a.m.

Cohen said he doesn't advise rushing out to buy a gas mask, but he noted that cities are being trained to manage the consequences of a biological or chemical attack.

Other ways to combat the threat include expanded intelligence capabilities and increased production of vaccines against diseases like smallpox, he said.

"Biological weapons are harder to develop and disseminate but not impossible," Cohen said.

At least two dozen countries either have or are trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction, which include chemical, nuclear and biological weapons, he said.

Cohen, who was defense secretary in the Clinton administration, said: "Whether we strike or not, there are likely to be more attacks ... and we should anticipate that."

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Responding to a question about whether the Sept. 11 terror attacks were committed for religious or economic reasons, Cohen said he didn't know for certain the exact motive, other than that the terrorists hate the United States.

Cohen surmised the attacks had "little to do with religion and more to do with the fact that they are against our civilization."

In a panel discussion at the ASIS convention, FEMA's acting director of national preparedness, John Magaw, said the attacks proved America isn't invulnerable and that Americans need to build safeguards against terror in the future.

Magaw was on a four-person panel that focused on terrorism Wednesday.

"We have got to think outside the box," Magaw said. "We cannot be discouraged from our resolve."

Another panelist, Peter Probst, vice president of the Institute for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, said there's no doubt Osama bin Laden was behind the attacks and it's unlikely the Saudi Arabian dissident is done yet.

"His goal is the utter destruction of the United States," Probst said. "What kind of attacks will we see? We really don't know what bin Laden's endgame may be ... (but) I believe it may be biological ... smallpox."

He said tractor-trailers carrying hazardous waste could be turned into truck bombs that disseminate harmful toxins over a large populace.

Panelist Zulfiqar Ali Shah, president of the Islamic Circle of North America and author of several books on Islam, said it's important to draw distinctions between peaceful Muslims and radical believers who emerged in the early 1970s called "Islamists."

"Islamism is primarily political, like fascism or communism," he said. "... It's a totalitarian ideology."

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**LOOKING FOR THAT PERFECT GIFT?
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Express-News: America in Agony

Health secretary certain doctors ready for bioterror

Associated Press

Web Posted : 10/03/2001 12:00 AM

WASHINGTON — The nation's health secretary insisted to skeptical senators Wednesday that federal doctors are prepared to combat any bioterror attack — even as he urged Americans to look out for mysterious symptoms and see a physician if they have any.

Worried senators asked Congress to allocate \$1.4 billion to improve the nation's health system against bioterrorism — a sixfold increase.

"The threat is real. The overall probability is low ... yet it's increasing," said Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., who introduced the spending bill along with Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass.

A surgeon, Frist warned that many of his fellow doctors wouldn't recognize symptoms of anthrax or other bioterror agents in time to save sufferers or, for contagious diseases like smallpox, contain an outbreak.

Thus, most of the money would be used to improve city, county and state preparedness.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson acknowledged there are gaps, saying he had asked the Bush administration for \$800 million, most to be sent to local and state public health systems.

Not only do front-line doctors and nurses need training, but local health departments should be linked to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's computer system that flags unusual illness clusters, he said.

Thompson also wants at least one CDC-trained outbreak specialist stationed in every state; currently, 13 states lack them.

Despite those gaps, "people should not be scared into believing they need to buy gas masks. And people should not be frightened into hoarding medicine and food," he said.

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Express-News: America in Agony

State spinning a security web

By Dane Schiller

San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 10/04/2001 12:00 AM

State troopers and National Guard troops will be part of a roving security web protecting airports, seaports, refineries and other potential terror targets, the head of the state's new task force on homeland security said here Wednesday.

Land Commissioner David Dewhurst, named to run the task force by Gov. Rick Perry, said the teams will have to balance respecting civil rights with rooting out criminal threats.

The first wave of guard troops should be deployed to Texas airports Friday, Dewhurst said.

The soldiers will be stationed at 27 airports — including San Antonio International — where they will "look over the shoulders" of baggage inspectors and also guard key access points at the facilities.

"We've got to get on with our lives, and we've got to be prepared," Dewhurst told the San Antonio Express-News Editorial Board.

"We need to have physical security at nuclear plants, generator plants, airports, ports and continually move some of our security so that people don't know exactly where they will be," said Dewhurst, a former Central Intelligence Agency and Air Force officer.

The Pentagon has called for making homeland defense a top priority, including a greater role for reservists in protecting the United States.

About 4,000 National Guard troops have been assigned to guard the nation's airports.

Civil libertarians cautioned that as the government moves to increase security, it must be careful not to trample on people's rights.

"It is a fine line that one needs to walk down between preservation of civil liberties and preservation of the union," said Char Miller, chairman of the Department of History at Trinity University.

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"Given our history of violating civil liberties in times of war, or war-like situations, we need to be extra vigilant in defending civil rights," said Miller, referring to the internment of people of Japanese descent during World War II.

"It doesn't mean you don't act. It does mean you do it within the context of law and not argue that law doesn't matter because we are in a state of emergency," he said.

Dewhurst said it's important to keep security details private but assured the public the state is taking measures to defend itself.

"We're not talking James Bond; we're not talking about anything more than law enforcement and analysts looking for folks that could be potential terrorists," said Dewhurst, who emphasized state officers would limit their investigations to what is going on inside Texas, and work closely with federal authorities.

In doing so, he said state officers will not trample on people's rights.

"We're going to be careful to protect everyone's civil liberties," he said. "If we really did make this (state) terrorist-proof, we wouldn't like the society we saw."

Perry created the security task force Monday.

The task force includes vice chairman William Sessions, a San Antonio native who is a former director of the FBI and a former federal judge.

Dewhurst said the task force will hold its first meeting next week and will hear from local officials, including mayors, police and firefighters, about their preparedness.

Dave McIntyre, deputy director for research at the ANSER Institute for Homeland Security, a think tank, said the U.S. government and American people face a great debate.

Among the questions, for example, is whether Tom Ridge, head of the new federal Office of Homeland Security, merely should make suggestions and offer guidelines or whether he should have specific authority, such as ordering all fire departments to use the same radio frequencies or telling a local police department how to deploy officers.

"I think it is possible for us to become a nation that watches out for one another without being a nation that watches one another," said McIntyre, former dean of the National War College. "I think it is possible for the American character to rise to this occasion."

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England, Blair provide strong support for U.S.

As President Bush said after the Sept. 11 attacks, the United States has no truer friend than Great Britain, and Prime Minister Tony Blair is gracefully verbalizing the strong support of America.

As President Bush works to build a coalition supporting U.S. action in response to the attacks in New York and Washington, Blair is adeptly helping make the case for the fight against terrorism.

"Whatever the dangers of the action we take, the dangers of inaction are far greater," Blair said Tuesday in an eloquent speech to Britain's Labor Party conference.

He added, "Understand the cause of terror. Yes, we should try. But let there be no moral ambiguity about this: Nothing could ever justify the events of Sept. 11, and it is to turn justice on its head to pretend it could."

British Prime Minister
Tony Blair offered
eloquent aid to Americans
when they need it most.

Blair's statement drove home an important point. The United States must be sensitive in foreign policy matters, but America has done nothing that warrants such terrorist attacks, and tolerating them will only lead to more.

Blair's reinforcement of the U.S. position on eradicating terrorists is a welcome and important asset.

The fight is about more than retaliation for the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The world must join together to stop the forces that intend to destroy civilization.

Assist those called to duty

Now is the time for San Antonians to step up and assist local military reservists who have been called to duty as a result of the terrorist attacks on America.

Both the San Antonio Spurs and former Mayor Henry Cisneros are to be applauded for finding a tangible way to offset the reduced paychecks of San Antonians called to military duty.

Spurs stars Antonio Daniels and Steve Smith and Gregg Popovich, the team's general manager and head coach, teamed up to contribute a total of \$25,000 to kick off the San Antonio ASSIST fund, which will supplement the salaries of reservists who are losing income from regular jobs as they defend

Readers can see a
basketball game and help
local reservists as they
defend the nation.

the nation.

The idea was the brainchild of Cisneros, who is helping organize the fund.

Beginning Friday, readers will find coupons in the Express-News entitling them to a free ticket to a Spurs preseason home game for every \$5 they donate to the ASSIST fund. Or to contribute directly, they can call the United Way at 352-7000 or visit www.spurs.com.



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Nacho Guarache

by Leo Garza



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FOCUS: AMERICA TARGETS TERRORISM

FBI did right thing

The picture Sunday of Dr. Al-Badr M.H. Al-Hazmi offering "forgiveness" for his arrest was so expressive of our American way of life and acceptance ("Prayers answered").

What Arab country would have extended such legal courtesy to anyone suspected of treason? According to the article, a "string of coincidences ... led officials to link Al-Hazmi to the deadliest terrorist attack in U.S. history."

For FBI agents to have ignored these possible connections would have been dereliction of duty. I, for one, applaud the caution and make no apology for it.

— Leigh Friedman

No whiners here

Re: the Saturday letter "Boo hoo for San Antonio":

Terror has landed on our shores, and we are all grieving. The changes in our economy as a result of this horror are also appropriately being noted.

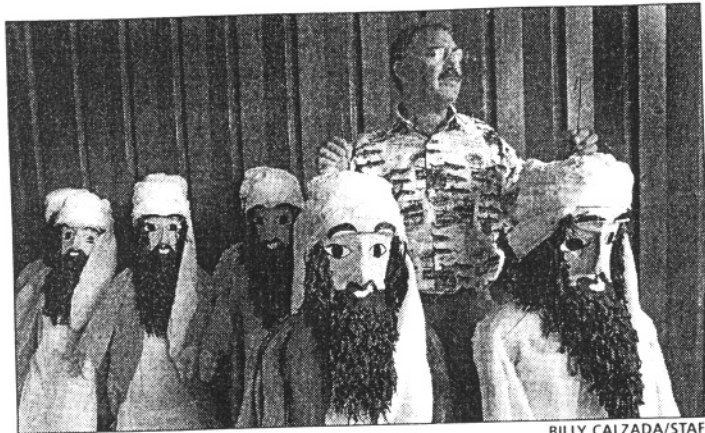
Transportation, communications, insurance and, yes, the convention and visitor industry are all affected.

However, far from being composed of "local money-grubbers," our convention and visitor industry employs almost 80,000 people with an economic impact of more than \$4 billion.

In addition, scholarships are provided and significant contributions and volunteer efforts to education within our city are made.

There is nothing shallow nor insensitive about anyone in this industry, and none of us is whining. Rather, we are taking good care of our clients, sending refunds and doing everything possible to get through this terrible time.

— Marie L. Pauerstein, president,
Local Arrangements Ltd.



BILLY CALZADA/STAFF

Since Rene Karam of McAllen is willing to stock Osama bin Laden pinatas, a reader wonders what other likenesses are possible.

Hole in piñata argument

Let me get this straight: Rene Karam of McAllen sees no harm in making Osama bin Laden piñatas ("Terror piñatas in for own bashing," Friday).

For the sake of argument, let's say there is no harm. It's just business. Can I order, say, one of Bill Clinton, Gary Condit, Susan Smith, Andrea Yates, Terry Nichols, Timothy McVeigh or Henry Cisneros?

Let's not forget the illegal Mexican national charged with terrorizing the Dellview neighborhood by raping residents and breaking into homes.

But my favorite would have to be the piñata of the Ku Klux Klan grand dragon in his white dress and hood.

To the pilot of the next flight I might be on: Please! If anyone resembles any of the above people, ask them to get off the plane. For my comfort and safety, of course.

— Dorinda G. Smith

Look in this hideout

If we can't find Osama bin Laden in his wolf den, maybe we'll find him in sheep's clothing — hiding behind a veil and skirt with one of his cronies caning him to avoid suspicion — for the coward he is.

— Michelle Hennigar

Can't legislate safety

I understand that emotions are running high, but this should not prevent us from seeing the foolishness of the Gestapo-type security measures for air travel.

You can detain, delay and assume everyone is a mad bomber, rifle through their belongings, force them to prove their innocence and harass them until they miss the plane!

But this will do nothing to prevent the type of disaster in New York. If a lunatic wants to do harm, he will. It is the nature of a free society. We come and go as we want. We allow others to do the same. Remember, the song goes "home of the brave," not "home of the safe."

If we want safety, we have to fight for it; it cannot be legislated. We should find those responsible for this disaster. We can only be safe when they are vanquished. They should pay the price for their sin, not us.

— Al Moy Jr.



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Who said carpet-bomb?

Unlike many of her previous columns, I agree with Jan Jarboe Russell's thesis that the people of Afghanistan have been treated with great indifference and that the Taliban is the cause of their plight ("Like us, Afghan people victims," Sept. 20).

However admirable her intent, she could not resist slamming President Bush.

Her use of the term "carpet-bombing" is offensive, as is the implication that Bush is going to kill "thousands of innocent people." I've seen and read all the reports, and I have yet to hear one responsible official talk about carpet-bombing Afghanistan.

Ms. Russell must be aware of the restrictions imposed on military forces by the law of land warfare. It follows that she also understands that military action against civilians is proscribed by this doctrine. If so, then one must assume she has another purpose in her criticisms of Bush.

My guess is that it is inevitable that the political, economic and military actions that will comprise this campaign will harm some innocents, and some will lose their lives. I bet it won't happen because we carpet-bomb Afghanistan.

— James R. Taylor,
New Braunfels

Go work for bin Laden

When I think about what type of person would purposely drive an airplane into a building just to kill innocent people, I am totally at a loss. I am just as baffled by an individual who would break the windows of an innocent man's restaurant.

The individuals who terrorized local businesses after the Sept. 11 attacks should go work for Osama bin Laden. After all, they fit the profile: individuals who are willing to vandalize innocent people and then hide like cowards.

These people should be brought to justice. They bring disgrace to the American flag and embarrassment to the concept of freedom.

My condolences to those who have been unjustly victimized.

— Donna Hofmann

Don't count on Mexico

The Monday editorial "No time for Mexico to show ambivalence" said that since the Sept. 11 attacks, "Mexico's support for the U.S. has been disappointing."

To be disappointed one must harbor certain expectations. Mexico has given us no such expectations.

The president of Mexico calls those who violate our immigration laws "heroes." They take billions of dollars out of this country and send it to Mexico. He speaks of dual citizenship for such people so he can reap political and financial rewards.

Illegal drugs are shipped through Mexico, and extradition from Mexico is whimsical at best. We are simply a cash cow for that country.

I am not at all disappointed by Mexico's lack of support for our efforts against terrorism. Once again, it has lived down to my expectations.

— Bob Dove

Others need relief more

After the tragedy, I felt hopeless and wondered: "What could I do?" I donated blood as soon as I could.

I then got a bright idea and cashed the tax relief check I had just received from the U.S. Treasury and wired the money to the Red Cross. All of a sudden, I don't feel I need that money. It seems trivial to spend it on myself.

— Chris Sawyer

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In hot demand, security firms show off gadgets in Alamo City

Terrorist attacks increase interest in products.

BY MELISSA S. MONROE
EXPRESS-NEWS BUSINESS WRITER

Since the terror attacks of Sept. 11, security companies nationwide have experienced a rush of orders for their gadgets that range from finger and eye screeners to simple locking devices.

Many of these products were on display at the American Society for Industrial Security's 47th annual Seminar and Exhibit at the Convention Center this

week.

One particularly hot locking device at the exhibit comes from the Intimidator product line of McGard Special Products Division in Orchard Park, N.Y.

This high-security lock has clients filling up orders through the end of the year, said Rick Glass, national sales manager of McGard.

"(Our product) is used to lock down manholes that would disrupt infrastructure such as the water, fiber optics and the cable system," Glass said. "There is no other fastener out there that's as secure as this."

The security exhibit was a part of the four-day ASIS event, which attracted companies that filled about 1,900 booths at the

Convention Center.

Some of the more popular items at the exhibit were biometric devices that can scan faces, eyes and fingers.

Brad "Skip" Williams, regional sales manager of Omega Optical Turnstiles, said his company's access control system, which has the capability to read fingers, eyes and scan cards, can easily cost clients anywhere from \$10,000 to \$30,000.

But high prices have taken a back seat to security.

"This has been the best show in about six years," Williams said. "It has a lot to do with the (Sept. 11) events."

Canadian-based Bioscrypt Inc. also was on hand displaying their top-of-the-line finger and

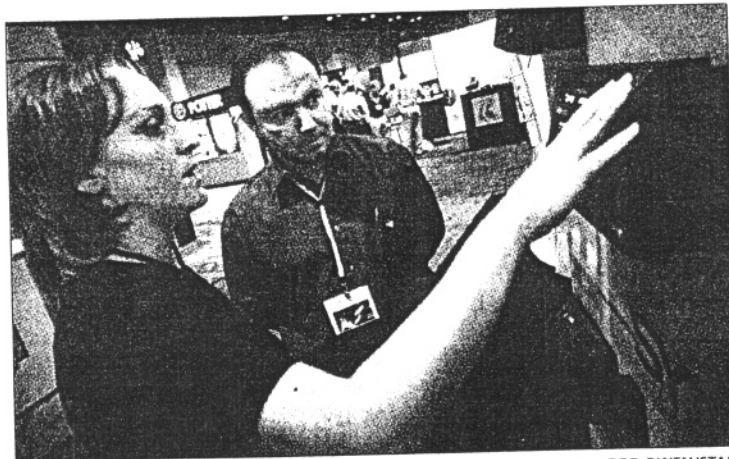
card reading devices.

"It's security. It gives a lot of accountability of employees and it eliminates things like buddy punching. It's just a verification of your identity," said Bruce Schwartz, Bioscrypt's director of sales.

Continental Airlines recently installed the system to help control payroll costs.

Through partnering with Control Module Inc., Bioscrypt combined its finger reading capabilities with Control's card reading devices. This partnership will save Continental about \$100,000 a month on payroll problems, according to Bioscrypt.

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BOB OWEN/STAFF

Denise Bissonette, marketing manager of Bioscrypt Inc., shows a time and attendance device with biometric technology to Adolph Salas of Security Solutions on Wednesday at the Convention Center. The device reads fingerprints.

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LSI makes smooth transition

Lynda Stringer

Times Record News

It was business as usual on the machinists' side of the 80th Flying Training Wing Tuesday, a day after Lear Siegler Services Inc. became the new aircraft maintenance contractor.

LSI and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 2771 reached a last-minute agreement on the new contract Sunday afternoon that averted a threatened strike.

VIPs of the Annapolis, Md.-based aerospace company visited the 80th Tuesday to witness the transition and reacquaint themselves with the maintenance work force. LSI had the Sheppard Air Force Base contract for five years before Lockheed Martin won it in 1997.

"We're pleased that the customer (the Air Force) chose us to come back," said Arthur Mallamo Jr., LSI's vice president and general manager for technical services.

Of Sunday's talks with union leaders, he said, "It came down to the wire, I was on the phone on a lawn tractor when we reached a conclusion and we're off and running."

Mel Staley, an airframe power general inspector who has worked under different contractors at Sheppard for almost 31 years, said he voted in favor of the collective bargaining agreement Sunday with 382 other union members. Just 18 members voted against the contract that will be renegotiated in 18 months.

"We got about everything we were looking for," he said.

So far, so good, Staley said.

"It's going to be look and see what's going to transpire. I know there's changes coming, and we hope they're all good," he said. "I think everybody will work with the company."

Mallamo said teamwork and communication are "critical now more than ever," with the war on terrorism.

LSI program manager Lee Hart, who returns to the same position he left in 1997, agreed. "Internally it's important the LSI management and the work force are a team and not counter forces," he said.

The machinists do everything from inspecting the planes, servicing them and fixing them. They work on every aspect of the T-37, T-38 and AT-38, from the engines,

avionics, the ejection systems, the hydraulic systems and the structural framework. Crew chiefs on the flight line launch the trainer jets and recover them after a training flight.

Local 2771 president Walter Beeman said he was pleased with the deal the union made for six workers out on disability.

"They have two years from the time they go out on disability to come back," he said. "That was a compromise on the company's part. We fought for that, it was one of our main strike issues."

When Beeman came on the night shift Tuesday he said, "It's going pretty well, it's business as usual."

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Company takes over aircraft maintenance at
Sheppard Air Force Base

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Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, Texas
Times Record News, 3 Oct 2001, Page 4A
Email: www.trnonline.com



Jet engine mechanic Billy Winter peers into the guts of a T-38 engine as he performs repairs Tuesday at Sheppard Air Force Base. Union workers helped make the transition smooth for new contractor Lear Siegler after a possible strike was avoided Sunday. Lear Siegler took over operations Tuesday.

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GOD SPEED

Bob Haley given much credit for impact on base, community

Arguably, one man could be credited for making Sheppard Air Force Base the most hospitable military installation in the world.

Wichita Falls and Sheppard lost one of their biggest cheerleaders Saturday, when retired Col. Robert "Bob" Haley died at the age of 72.

The father of the Adopt-A-Squadron program at Sheppard, Haley helped roll out the welcome mat for pilots from countries all over the globe, giving these displaced students a home away from home. Through that effort, the former base commander provided Sheppard with a considerable insurance policy during any talks of base closings.

His military career was sparkled with honors — the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star and the

Meritorious Service Medal among them.

Haley's influence in this community didn't stop at Sheppard's gates. An interim Wichita Falls city manager in 1980, Haley helped Wichita Falls pick up the pieces after the devastating tornado of '79. And his civic contributions span the community landscape, with affiliations with such organizations as the Mavericks, The United Way, Midwestern State University as an associate faculty member, Wichita Falls Junior League and the YMCA.

His family — including his wife, son, daughter, granddaughter and brother — will surely miss him. But Wichita Falls would have missed out on so much without the presence of Bob Haley.

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Officials in Oklahoma brace for base closures

By Chris Casteel
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Enid Mayor Doug Frantz and state Rep. David Braddock, D-Altus, are assuming that another round of military base closings is coming. And they're confident the Air Force bases in their communities will survive.

They just want to be prepared.

Bases: Previous rounds missed state

From Page 1-A

were approved, the Senate on Tuesday approved a defense bill authorizing another round, this one for 2003. The House defense bill does not include base-closing language, so the issue will have to be fought out when lawmakers from both chambers write a final version.

But President Bush, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and top military brass want another round. Their wishes are expected to be afforded great deference at this point.

"We're anticipating there's a pretty good likelihood there will be another round," Frantz said. "We're moving forward on that assumption and trying to get ready."

The state has four major military installations: Air Force pilot training bases in Enid and Altus; Tinker Air Force Base, the largest component of which is a maintenance depot in Oklahoma City; and Fort Sill, an Army artillery training base in Lawton. An Army ammunition plant is in McAlester.

"I wake up scared every day," said Braddock, who is heading up a state legislative task force to prevent base closings.

"I think the next three to five years will be the most critical time in the history of our bases in Oklahoma."

For the first time since 1995, when the last base closures

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The Oklahoma bases have survived four rounds of closures. Some even gained jobs from bases that were less fortunate.

Since 1995, when many thought President Clinton injected politics into the base-closing process, Oklahoma lawmakers have opposed any more rounds.

But this year, Sen. Don Nickles, R-Ponca City, changed his position and voted for another round, while Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Tulsa, remained opposed. The amendment to have another round passed by a close vote, 53-47.

In an interview, Nickles said, "I definitely was opposed to giving (Clinton) another round because he proved he couldn't be trusted."

Now, he said, he trusts Bush not to distort the process.

"You never want a base to be closed," he said. "But we do have surplus capacity. I don't like the anxiety it puts communities in and so on."

Nickles said he felt "pretty good" about Oklahoma bases surviving another round.

"I don't want to give false as-

surances about it, but if you look at each base independently," the Oklahoma bases stack up well against others, he said.

Inhofe said he was surprised that Nickles voted for the base-closing amendment. Frantz said he wasn't.

"I'm sure he's trying to do the best thing for the country," Frantz said.

Braddock said he wished Nickles hadn't voted for another round, but he believes another round is probably inevitable in the next few years.

That, he said, is why the task force was formed by the state Legislature to help communities prepare for what can be a grueling process.

In regard to Altus Air Force Base, he said: "I feel good about our mission and how we are able to do our mission. But I feel you can never be comfortable in this situation."

Frantz said Enid still has a Washington lobbyist on retainer. Many communities hired Washington lobbyists during the base-closing rounds in the 1990s.

He said he also feels good about the way Vance Air Force Base performs.

"It seems unlikely they'd close us," he said. "But sometimes politics overrides other things."

Braddock agreed, saying, "Politics put these bases here and politics can take them away."

Before 1995, lawmakers had come to trust the base-closing process, which used an independent commission to make decisions based on Pentagon recommendations. The president and Congress could only accept or reject the entire list.